

KCC 4981 (K-C 13,489)
PATENTAMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) An absorbent article having a longitudinal axis, a lateral axis, opposite longitudinal end regions and a central region extending longitudinally between and interconnecting the end regions, said absorbent article comprising:

an outer cover;

a bodyside liner adapted for contiguous relationship with the wearer's skin; and

an absorbent structure disposed between the bodyside liner and the outer cover, the absorbent structure being secured to at least one of the liner and the outer cover within a securement zone, the securement zone comprising a central portion disposed generally within the central region of the article and having an average width as determined by a Securement Zone Measurement Method, and at least one outer portion disposed longitudinally outward of the central portion of the securement zone and having an average width as determined by the Securement Zone Measurement Method, said average width of the central portion of the securement zone being substantially greater than said average width of the at least one outer portion of said securement zone.

2. (Original) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein the absorbent article has a length, the central portion of the securement zone having longitudinally opposite

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end boundaries defining an average length of said central portion as determined by said Securement Zone Measurement Method, said average length being in the range of about 5 percent to about 50 percent of the length of the absorbent article.

3. (Original) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 2 wherein the average length of the central portion of the securement zone is in the range of about 10 percent to about 30 percent of the length of the absorbent article.

4. (Original) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 3 wherein the average length of the central portion of the securement zone is in the range of about 10 percent to about 20 percent of the length of the absorbent article.

5. (Original) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein the absorbent article has a length, the central portion of the securement zone having longitudinally opposite end boundaries, one of said end boundaries being spaced from a respective end of the absorbent article a distance in the range of about 20 percent to about 45 percent of the length of the absorbent article, the opposite end boundary of the central portion of the securement zone being longitudinally spaced from the respective opposite end of the absorbent article a distance in the range of about 20 percent to about 50 percent of the length of the absorbent article.

6. (Original) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein the absorbent structure is secured to said at least one of the outer cover and the bodyside liner with adhesive.

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7. (Original) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 6 wherein the adhesive is a meltblown adhesive.

8. (Original) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein the securement zone comprises a pair of outer portions extending longitudinally outward of the central portion of said securement zone, one of said outer portions extending longitudinally toward one end of the absorbent article, the other outer portion extending longitudinally toward the opposite end of the absorbent article.

9. (Original) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein the absorbent structure has laterally opposite side edges, the securement zone having laterally opposite side boundaries, the side boundaries of the securement zone at the central portion thereof being disposed laterally within at least about one inch (2.54 centimeters) of the respective side edges of the absorbent structure at the central portion of the securement zone, the side boundaries of the securement zone at said at least one outer portion thereof being spaced laterally inward of the respective side edges of the absorbent structure at the said least one outer portion of the securement zone a distance greater than about one inch (2.54 centimeters).

10. (Original) An absorbent structure as set forth in claim 1 wherein said average width of the central portion of the securement zone is at least about 20 percent of the width of the absorbent structure at said central portion of the securement zone, said average width of said at least one outer portion of the securement zone being less than about 20 percent

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of the width of the absorbent structure at said at least one outer portion.

11. (Original) An absorbent structure as set forth in claim 10 wherein said average width of the central portion of the securement zone is in the range of about 20 percent to about 80 percent of the width of the absorbent structure at said central portion of the securement zone.

12. (Original) An absorbent structure as set forth in claim 10 wherein said average width of the central portion of the securement zone is in the range of about 20 percent to about 60 percent of the width of the absorbent structure at said central portion of the securement zone.

13. (Original) An absorbent structure as set forth in claim 1 wherein the absorbent structure is secured to both the outer cover and the bodyside liner within the securement zone.

14. (Original) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein at least one of the outer cover and the bodyside liner is stretchable.

15. (Original) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 14 wherein said at least one of the outer cover and the bodyside liner is elastic.

16. (Original) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 14 wherein the absorbent structure is substantially non-stretchable.

17. (Original) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein the securement zone extends continuously generally

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from within one end region of said article through the central region to within the opposite end region of said article.

18. (Original) An absorbent article as set forth in claim 1 wherein the absorbent article has longitudinally opposite ends, the central portion of the securement zone being disposed nearer to one end of the article than to said opposite end of said article.

19-52. (Canceled).